**REPORTING QUALITY ASSESSMENT GUIDE FOR REVIEWERS**

Neurological effects induced by micro and nanoplastic in fish:   
a systematic review and meta-analysis

**1) Randomization**

Rate this question as follows:

**YES ( Y ) -** If there is any mention of a randomization process of assignment of animals to the experimental groups or the collection of data.

**NO ( N ) -** When there is no mention of any randomization process or if it is clear that no randomization process was used.

Keywords: random, randomization, aleatory, chance, counterbalance

**2) Sample size estimation**

Rate this question as follows:

**YES ( Y ) -** If there is an estimation of the sample size to be used in the experiment.

**NO ( N ) -** When there is no mention that the authors estimated the sample size for the experiments.

Keywords: sample size, power, effect size, estimate

**3) Data exclusion or animal inclusion (post-exposure) criteria[[1]](#footnote-0)**

Rate this question as follows:

**YES ( Y ) -** The authors mention the criteria for the exclusion or inclusion of the outliers.

**NO ( N ) -** When there is no mention of the criteria used to exclude animals from the analysis.

Keywords: exclusion, criteria, removed, outlier, excluded, discarded, included.

* Report of dead animals *per se* will not be included
  + Mortality - no
  + Tank cleaning - no
  + Explaining lacking data - yes (evaluate)

**4) Blinding**

Rate this question as follows:

**YES ( Y ) -** The authors mention that the allocation of animals to the experimental groups or the outcome assessor was blinded to the experimental groups.

**NO ( N ) -** When the authors mention no blinding process on the reporting of the experiments.

Keywords: blind, aware, researcher, experiment, bias, mask

Yes was attributed even if there is only one report in any part of the study..

1. Data exclusion or animal inclusion before exposition is not considered as “Yes”. Only if the animals have been exposed then discarded. [↑](#footnote-ref-0)